GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3707
ANSWERED ON:07.04.2003
IRRIGATION SCHEMES
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has proposed 10 new schemes for irrigation during the Tenth Plan Period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether inspite of starting Tenth Plan the Ministry has not been able to submit detailed proposals to the Planning Commission for these schemes; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to submit proposals to the Planning Commission for early clearance and to start work?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) The Ministry has proposed to introduce ten new schemes during the Tenth Five Year Plan, which are not specifically meant for irrigation development projects. The schemes are mainly intended for capacity building and facility creation in some of the technical organisations of the Ministry as well as for augmenting ground water resources, flood control, drainage improvement and anti-erosion works in various parts of the country.

(b) to (d) The ten new schemes proposed to be introduced during Tenth Plan along with their status and the steps being taken to get the schemes approved are indicated in the Table below:

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Status of approval and steps being taken therefor
1.	Water Quality Assessment Authority.	The 12-Member Authority is headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Commissioner (Water Management), Ministry of Water Resources is the Member-Secretary. The Second Meeting of the Authority is scheduled to be held on 8.4.03 to finalise the action plan of the Authority. The formulation of the scheme to carry out the activities of the Authority will be taken up after the action plan of the Authority is finalised.
2.	Upgradation of facilities and skills in Central Water Commission regarding Dam Safety and Rehabilitation.	The proposal for the scheme as formulated by the Central Water Commission was sent to the Planning Commission for in-principle approval. Subsequently in response to certain issues raised by the Planning Commission, the Ministry has submitted its views on the issues and requested to the Planning Commission for according in-principle approval.
3.	Setting up specialized units in Hydroelectric Designs, Pump Storage and strengthening of Instrumentation Directorate of Central Water Commission.	The Planning Commission has accorded in-principle approval to the scheme. The scheme is now waiting for final approval of the competent authority in the Ministry, for which the Finance Wing of the Ministry is completing necessary processes.
4.	Modernisation and upgradation of Research facilities in Central	Following the in-principle approval accorded by the Planning Commission, the scheme has been approved by the SFC in

Water and Power Research Station.	March, 2003.	
5. Improvement of Canal Control through modern techniques and technology.	The scheme as formulated by the Central Water and Power Research Station has envisaged an external funding support under the Indo French Financial Aid Programme. Further processing of the scheme is held up for want of firm commitment of the French Government in this regard. The commitment of French Government for the scheme is being ascertained before further processing for in-principle approval of the Planning Commission.	
6. Development of Ground Water Resources and Rain Water Harvesting in major cities.	The proposal for the scheme was sent to the Planning Commission, which did not support it on the grounds that the activities proposed can be covered under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Artificial Recharge of Ground Water. Accordingly, the Ministry has formulated the proposal for the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Artificial Recharge of Ground Water which was sent to the Planning Commission in February 2003 for its in-principle approval. The matter is being persued with Planning Commission for early clearance of the scheme.	
7. Improvement of Drainage in the country including Mokama Tal area.	The Ministry has invited proposals from the States as per their needs. As the beneficiary States have not yet sent their proposals to be included under the scheme, the formulation of the scheme is delayed and the Central Water Commission has been entrusted the work to formulate a suitable scheme to avoid further delay.	
8. Critical anti-erosion works in coastal and other than Ganga Basin States.	The Ministry formulated the scheme on the basis of proposals received from some of the beneficiary States and sent to proposal to the Planning Commission for its in-principle approval. The Planning Commission has made certain observations, which are now being looked into.	
9. New schemes for Majuli Islands in Assam, Dibang project etc.	One component of the scheme involving construction work relating to avulsion on the Brahmaputra at Dholla-Hathiguli has been approved for an estimated cost for Rs. 10.47 crore and is under execution by the Brahmaputra Board. The complete scheme containing other components will be formulated separately.	
10. Flood Control in Brahmaputra Valley	The Ministry invited the list of prioritised schemes from the North-Eastern States including Sikkim and West Bengal (for the areas of North Bengal falling within the Brahmaputra Basin) for formulation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for supporting critical flood control/anti-erosion activities in the Brahmaputra Barak Valley. There was delay in submission of the prioritised schemes by most of the North-Eastern States. However, only the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Nagaland have so far submitted the details of prioritised schemes whereas the States of Sikkim, Manipur and Mizoram have asked for lump sum provisions. Meghalaya and West Bengal have not yet responded. In order that the scheme is not delayed further, the Ministry has formulated the scheme proposal on the basis of information received from the State Governments and is going to submit it to the Planning Commission for its in-principle approval.	